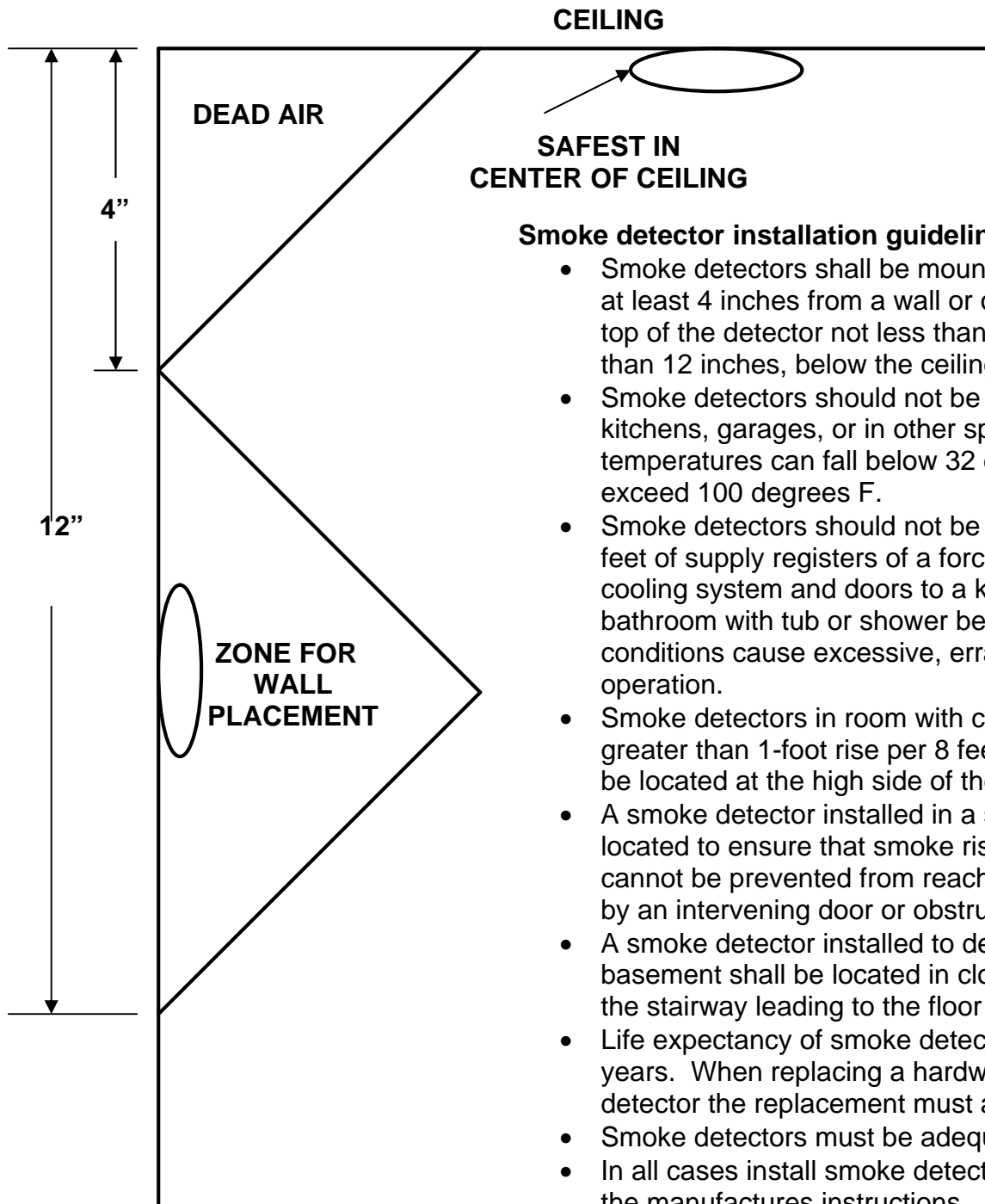




Building Safety Department
CITY OF ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

Locating Smoke Detectors
In Existing Buildings



Smoke detector installation guidelines

- Smoke detectors shall be mounted on the ceiling at least 4 inches from a wall or on a wall with the top of the detector not less than 4 inches, or more than 12 inches, below the ceiling.
- Smoke detectors should not be located within kitchens, garages, or in other spaces where temperatures can fall below 32 degrees F, or exceed 100 degrees F.
- Smoke detectors should not be located within 3 feet of supply registers of a forced air heating or cooling system and doors to a kitchen or bathroom with tub or shower because these conditions cause excessive, erratic, and unreliable operation.
- Smoke detectors in room with ceiling slopes greater than 1-foot rise per 8 feet horizontally shall be located at the high side of the room.
- A smoke detector installed in a stairwell shall be located to ensure that smoke rising in the stairwell cannot be prevented from reaching the detector by an intervening door or obstruction.
- A smoke detector installed to detect a fire in the basement shall be located in close proximity to the stairway leading to the floor above.
- Life expectancy of smoke detectors is about 10 years. When replacing a hardwired smoke detector the replacement must also be hardwired.
- Smoke detectors must be adequately secured.
- In all cases install smoke detectors according to the manufactures instructions.

Battery operated smoke detectors are generally accepted in existing housing, however, remodeling projects may require an additional power source, interconnection between smoke detectors and additional locations. *For further details contact us at (507) 281-6133 or call the Rochester Fire Prevention Bureau at (507) 285-8072.*